



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT  
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## ROSH HASHANAH REFLECTIONS

While many of the peoples of the world usher in their New Year with fireworks and joyous festivities, we Jews have always marked the start of the year in quite a different way. For us, this is a period of reflection, repentance and prayer. We inevitably look back on the past year--counting our blessings and sternly reviewing our deeds and the deeds of our community.

This year my first thought is of Israel. I am deeply saddened at the thought of tens of thousands of Israelis celebrating the New Year with a close relative or friend still serving in Lebanon.

I think also of the families of the two Marines killed in Lebanon. How hard it must be for them to understand the fratricide which has killed 100,000 Lebanese in a decade. Now this sectarian hatred has snuffed out the lives of two young American men who wanted only to protect the Lebanese from each other.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I contemplate what appears to the conclusion of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's long and illustrious career as a Jewish leader. I know how deeply Begin wished to crown his years of public service by returning every last Israeli from Lebanon, by signing a formal peace pact with Amin Gemayel and by seeing a general thaw in Israel's relations with the Arab world.

Every Prime Minister of Israel has left office brokenhearted. Regardless of party or personal philosophy, all had one transcendent goal: true peace in the Middle East.

Despite public exoneration, the late Golda Meir was haunted to the very moment of her death with thoughts of the Israeli soldiers who died when Israel was "caught off guard" by the ignominious Yom Kipper attack.

To date no American President and no Israeli Prime Minister has been able to make more than a small dent in the wall of bitter hatred the Arabs have erected between themselves and Israel. Even the landmark agreement between Egypt and Israel appears to be weakening. Though a year has passed since the War in Lebanon, the Egyptians have yet to appoint an ambassador to Israel or implement the other diplomatic formalities that were suspended last year.

In the final analysis, Israel does not want American weapons, American money or the assistance of the Marines. For a quarter of

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a century, Israel has wanted only to live at peace with her neighbors.

Israel wants to be known for her literature and democratic government, for her agriculture and industrial ingenuity. The descendents of Jacob have never sought military power for its own sake. They have simply refused to be parties to their own annihilation.

To the publisher, editor, staff and readers of B'nai B'rith Messenger and all their families, my best wished for a happy and healthy New Year--a ketivah v'chaitim ah tovah. May the Almighty guide us in all we do towards the paths of peace.

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